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From the Office of the Director of Health

Water Resources Evaluated for Quality and Quantity

Water quality and quantity are the focus of the 2004 Environmental Report Card published by the Springfield-Greene County Health Department. Challenges remain, despite numerous successes in improving water quality.

The report shows 58% of private wells in Greene County tested safe during 2003, which was no change from the five-year mean. It also states that only 23% of Greene County streams sampled during the swimming season had levels of *E. coli* considered to be safe for full-body contact.

The Vision 20/20 planning process is addressing both water quality and quantity concerns. Recommendations from this process could make a significant impact on local water quality and quantity issues, if fully implemented.

The condition of our environment is tied to economic vitality and quality of life in southwest Missouri. By consistently monitoring our environment and its indicators, we can recognize early issues that need to be addressed to ensure continued quality of life in our community.

The 2004 Environmental Report Card is a partnership effort of the Environmental Collaborative of the Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Springfield-Greene County Environmental Advisory Board, Springfield-Greene County Health Department, Springfield-Greene County Park Board, City of Springfield Public Works, Ozark Greenways and the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks.

The report card can be viewed online at www.springfieldmogov.org/health/.

For more information, contact:

Loring Bullard, Director

Watershed Committee of the Ozarks

(417) 866-1127

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